FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops killed over 300 Iraqi soldiers during a 30-31 March infiltration operation in the north, Iran claimed in a war report cited by Tehran radio. Other reports carried by the radio stated that Iranian warplanes inflicted heavy losses in raids on Iraqi positions in the Al-Faw peninsula 31 March and 1 April.

Lebanon

The fighting between Palestinian gunmen and the Amal Movement stopped during the evening of 31 March as a result of efforts by the Camps Security Coordination Committee to secure a cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. In another development, French Embassy sources announced that France has decided to withdraw its remaining observers from Lebanon, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

Libya

The PDRY foreign minister congratulated Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Libya's "great victory" in the face of U.S. "aggression," Aden radio stated in a report on their 31 March meeting in Tripoli.

Sudan

A military source cited by the daily *AL-SAHAFAH* announced that two Ethiopian jets recently violated Sudanese airspace and overflew the Upper Nile district capital of Malakal, SUNA reported.

Further Sudanese criticism of the United States was expressed in a SUNA political commentary, which accused Washington of seeking to undermine Sudanese unity by exploiting the southern problem.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak has ordered that a student wounded in a clash with policemen in Asyut be taken by special plane to the military hospital in Cairo, MENA reported. The student was shot when he and three other persons assaulted two detectives who were trying to prevent them putting up posters advertising a seminar in a local mosque, the agency disclosed.

Israel

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin criticized the U.S. State Department in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio, asserting that its "verbal maneuvering" will not accelerate the process of getting Jordan and moderate Palestinians to negotiate with Israel. The radio said Rabin believes that rather than talking, the Americans should do something about the quality of life in the occupied territories. He also viewed the State Department's advice that U.S. politicians avoid visiting the Middle East as "giving in to terrorism."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 062 *1 April 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Keshtmand Outlines Socioeconomic Development Plans ..... C 1
Keshtmand Congratulates Bulgaria's Atanasov ..... C 1

INDIA

Further on British Foreign Secretary's Visit ..... E 1
Spokesman on Talks With Bhagat ..... E 1
UK Mercenaries in Sri Lanka Discussed ..... E 1
Howe Notes Antiterrorist Stance ..... E 1
Meets Gandhi ..... E 1
MP's Ask Reagan To Accept Soviet Proposals ..... E 2
Swiss Foreign Minister Arrives in Bombay 31 Mar ..... E 2
Spokesman Denies Special Envoy To Visit Colombo ..... E 2
Additional Reportage on Unrest in Punjab ..... E 2
Government, Opposition Meet ..... E 2
Punjab Assembly Adopts Resolution ..... E 2
Gandhi on Antiterrorist Action ..... E 3
Ban on Foreigners Extended ..... E 3
New Punjab Governor Named ..... E 3
2 'Terrorists' Killed in Amritsar ..... E 3
Delhi Strike Protests Killings ..... E 3
PRC Reportedly Involved in Pakistan's Nuclear Program ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Zia Reiterates Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy ..... F 1
Soviet Ambassador Meets Ziaul Haq 31 Mar ..... F 1
Mujahidin Operations Against USSR-Karmal Forces ..... F 1
Attack Position in Herat ..... F 1
Attack Military Convoy in Farah ..... F 1
Attack Qandahar Airport ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Security Minister on Terrorists Offensive Plans ..... G 1
No Soviet, Indian Support of Terrorists ..... G 1
USSR Envoy Denies Support *[SUN 21 Mar]* ..... G 1
Minister Confident of No Indian Aid ..... G 1
Further Reportage on Separatist Violence ..... G 1
Five Soldiers Killed *[AFP]* ..... G 1
125 'Marxist Terrorists' Captured ..... G 2
Navy Patrol Kills 11 Tamils ..... G 2
Tamil Terrorist Leader Killed ..... G 2

IRAN

Velayati Condemns U.S. Role in Nicaragua ..... I 1
Cabinet Reviews Reconstruction Jihad, Foreign Policy ..... I 1

Muslim Brotherhood 'Strongly Condemns' Iraqi CW Use ..... I 1
SAIRI Spokesman Condemns Arab League Stance ..... I 1
Iraqi 'Revolutionaries' Kill Karbala' Official ..... I 1
IRGC To Set Up Regional Staff Headquarter ..... I 1
Navy Commander Notes Use of 'Special War Tactic' ..... I 2
WIH Head Discusses 'Val-Fajr-8,' UN Resolution ..... I 2
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 2
Fighters Bomb Supply Centers ..... I 2
Forces Destroy Bunkers, Kill 300 ..... I 3
Communique No 2426 ..... I 3
Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions ..... I 3
IRGC Sinks Iraqi Frigate ..... I 3
Air Force Bombs Al-Faw-Basa Axis ..... I 3
Positions in Bakhtaran, Ilam Bombed ..... I 4
Commentaries Examine Bush's Upcoming Gulf Visit ..... I 4
ABRAR Political Commentary ..... I 4
Tehran Radio Commentary ..... I 4
Ayatollah Shari'atmadari Suffering From Cancer *[Radio Iran]* ..... I 5

Keshtmand Outlines Socioeconomic Development Plans
LD010649 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR — The Gross National Production, GNP, of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, will grow by 25 percent in the first post-revolution socio-economic development plan of the country lasting from 1986 to 1991, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, addressing the 17th Plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA said that the implementation of the general policy of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan for the removal of century-long backwardness, acceleration of the growth of national economy, the consolidation of social pillar of people's power, the accomplishment of the undelayable tasks of social transformations aimed at elevating the material and cultural standard of living of the people constitute the main aspect of the socio-economic development plan for the years 1986-1991.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added that the perspective growth and the democratic transformations are realising the long-cherished aspirations of the working people and their vital interest. This lays the foundation for the unity of all stratas, tribes and nationalities in Afghanistan and draw the progressive and patriotic forces around the PDPA for achieving victory over the forces of reaction and counter-revolutionaries.

The undeclared war unleashed by reactionary imperialism against the DRA which is still continuing has inflicted huge damages on the country's national economy and has produced numerous problems for the people of Afghanistan. In the years of undeclared war, chairman of the Council of Ministers continued to say, tens of economic institutions, over 2,000 schools, over half of [words indistinct] centres, hundreds of mosques, 14 thousand km of telephone lines and 50 percent of power transmission lines were destroyed by the counter-revolutionaries.

The damages inflicted due to the destructive actions of the counter-revolution being sent to the DRA by U.S. imperialism amounted to forty billion afghanis, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand.

The imperialist countries and in the first place [words indistinct] have overtly and covertly allocated over 1.5 billion dollars for the counter-revolutionary bands for subversive activities against the DRA.

Despite the hard conditions, the measures taken by the party and the state of the DRA in the recent years provided the grounds for the socio-economic growth of the country as a result of which the production level even surpassed the amount of the pre-revolution year.

The Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects have a determining [word indistinct] for the consolidation and economic growth of the country, the chairman of the Council of Ministers said. These projects, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand continued to say, produce over 75 percent of the industrial products of the state sector and over 60 percent of the electric energy. Over 90 thousand experts and skilled workers have been trained [words indistinct] Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects either in the Soviet Union or inside the country.

Mutually beneficial and traditional trade has been existing between the two countries. Presently, the exchange of goods with the Soviet Union forms 65 percent of foreign trade circulation in the DRA.

Retail trade is mainly carried out by the private sector. The state, mixed sectors and cooperatives are conducting about 22 percent of the trade circulations which have played an important role for the price stabilisation throughout the country.

Over 9000 experts with higher education, about 10 thousand with intermediate education and almost 4 thousand skilled workers have been trained in the past four years.

Culture and mass communication have further developed.

The number of state libraries increased by 63 percent. Radio programmes annually elevated by 1.3 times and television publications by 3.4 times.

With the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union over 130 major projects have been envisaged in the next five years, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand pointed out.

Keshtmand Congratulates Bulgaria's Atanasov
LD010628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, sent a congratulatory message to Georgi Atanasov on the occasion of his election as a chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Sofia.

The message expressed confidence that good relations and mutual cooperation will be further expanded in socio-economic spheres between the two countries.

Further on British Foreign Secretary's Visit

Spokesman on Talks With Bhagat

BK311459 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1433 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Briefing newsmen on 31 March, the official spokesman said that External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat today held discussions with British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe on bilateral and international affairs of mutual interest. The talks lasted 2 hours. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and were marked by a candid exchange of views. The EAM [External Affairs Minister] was assisted by Foreign Secretary Venkateswaran; Additional Secretary Prem Shunker, and Joint Secretaries Daulat Singh, Kuldip Sahdev, and S.K. Lambah.

The substantial portions of talks centered on India's concern regarding terrorist activities directed against India from British soil. Bhagat reiterated the serious concern voiced both by the government and Parliament in India with regard to acts of terrorism and terrorist organisations in the UK directed against India. It was pointed out that the existing laws in the UK can be used not only to debar entry of extremists but also to deport them from the UK. Attention of the British foreign secretary was brought to the fact that a large number of Sri Lankan refugees had been denied entry to and deported from Britain under its existing laws while persons known to be extremists advocating violence in India had not only been admitted into the UK but also given facilities to stay on there. The Indian side drew attention of the British delegation to several instances in this regard.

Bhagat urged that apart from the provision of the existing laws India expected the British Government to use its executive power and political will in dealing with extremists there as exemplified by its actions in dealing with the IRA [Irish Republican Army] terrorists. Sir Geoffrey expressed understanding of the concern expressed by the EAM and indicated that these issues would be looked into further on his return.

The British foreign secretary informed that [as heard] a request for asylum by Jaswant Singh Thekkedar had been rejected by the British Government. While expressing his appreciation for this action Bhagat expressed his hope that Thekkedar would be deported to India under the existing laws of the UK.

Discussions were also held on a draft of the extradition treaty proposed by India. The British side also came up with some proposals. It was decided that experts could soon meet to discuss terms of the treaty.

The question of bilateral aid was mentioned by Sir Geoffrey who indicated that additional aid would be made available to India.

The EAM referred to developments in the region and India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbours, both bilaterally and in the framework of SARC [South Asia Regional Council]. Cooperation in the fields of culture and education was also discussed. Both sides expressed their interest in developing these further.

Later, answering queries from newsmen, the official spokesman also mentioned that India reiterated its opposition to a talk in some quarters, even before the present visit, of a Commonwealth initiative on Sri Lanka.

UK Mercenaries in Sri Lanka Discussed

BK311635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Excerpts] India has asked Britain to use its executive power and political will in dealing with extremists operating from British soil against this country. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, today told the visiting British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, that the existing British laws can be used not only to ban the entry of extremists to Britain but also to deport them.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that Indian and British experts will meet shortly to examine the draft extradition treaty between the two countries.

In a review of the situation in the region, the Indian side reiterated its opposition to a Commonwealth initiative on the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. It believes that the efforts being made to resolve the issue with India's good offices are satisfactory. India also expressed concern at the presence of private British mercenaries in Sri Lanka to assist the government in dealing with Tamil militants. Sir Geoffrey said the British Government does not have any control over them.

The question of Paksitan's reentry into Commonwealth also came up. The Indian side said there is no change in our position that the issue should be considered only on the basis of unanimity.

Mr Bhagat was assisted by Mr Venkateswaran who took over as the new foreign secretary this afternoon and other senior officials.

Howe Notes Antiterrorist Stance

BK010318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The visiting British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has reiterated that any attempt to use his country as a base to destabilize others would be prevented. Delivering a lecture on the international outlook, the British view, in New Delhi, Sir Geoffrey said international terrorism has been a major concern to both India and his country. Referring to the arms race he said the concept of (?Eastern) security has been recognized by both the East and the West.

Meets Gandhi

BK011637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The visiting British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, today reafirmed that his country is no safe haven for those who act to destabilize others by violence or intimidation. He was

addressing a news conference in New Delhi after a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Replying to a number of questions on anti-Indian terrorist activities directed from Britain, he said his country shares India's determination to stamp out terrorism. There is no ambiguity or qualification for this determination. British political will and the full resources of British law will continue to be devoted to stamping out terrorism. He said no asylum has been granted to any Indian citizen since 1980. We are also always ready to consider applications for extradition.

Sir Geoffrey added that he had renewed Britain's offer to apply to India the Suppression of Terrorism Act. This would have a speedy, practical and psychological effect. India would be the first country outside Europe to benefit from this act. We should make it impossible for terrorists to argue against extradition by claiming that serious crimes of violence were politically motivated.

MP's Ask Reagan To Accept Soviet Proposals

BK281409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Over 100 members of the Indian Parliament belonging to different political parties have appealed to the U.S. President, Mr Ronald Reagan, to reciprocate the Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear weapon tests.

In a cabled message today they urged Mr Reagan to accept the Soviet offer before it expired by the end of this month. The signatories have said the moratorium on nuclear weapon tests, proposed by six nations including India, will pave the way for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

They also appealed to Mr Reagan to stop any program for militarization of outer space in order to take forward the spirit of the Geneva summit to a disarmament agreement.

Swiss Foreign Minister Arrives in Bombay 31 Mar

BK310431 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The foreign minister of Switzerland, Pierre Aubert, arrived in Bombay this morning on a 7-day official visit to the country. After an overnight stay, he will leave for New Delhi tomorrow morning. Mr Aubert is accompanied by his wife.

Spokesman Denies Special Envoy To Visit Colombo

BK311509 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1441 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] In response to queries from the press regarding news reports in the Sri Lankan press that Romesh Bhandari would be visiting Colombo on April 27, the official spokesman said that these news reports are speculative and without any basis.

Additional Reportage on Unrest in Punjab

Government, Opposition Meet

BK311259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] A general review of the Punjab situation was held in New Delhi today by the government with the opposition leaders. Ways and means to maintain law and order and communal harmony in the state were discussed. The parties represented at the meeting included CPI-M, CPI, Bhartiya Janata Party, Janata, Akali Dal, Telugu Desam, All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, and Assam Gana Parishad. From the government's side besides the prime minister, the home minister, the minister of state for internal security, and others attended.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting which lasted for more than an hour, Mr Arun Nehru said that the prime minister has given categorical instruction that maintaining law and order and communal harmony in Punjab is to be given priority and the situation should be dealt with firmly. He said the center would try to help the state government to the maximum to deal with the situation. All possible help has been given to the Barnala government in terms of paramilitary forces and equipment. Mr Nehru described the situation in Punjab as a difficult one and said it was agreed that no political party should do anything or give a statement which would weaken the position of Mr Barnala. It should be ensured that the morale of the police is maintained.

It was agreed that the local units of the political parties should visit the people in the state as a measure of confidence building. The opposition leaders agreed that some kind of common program should be drawn up to maintain peace and nothing should be done which would vitiate the atmosphere. Mr Nehru said Mr Barnala has told the police, the administration, and the partymen that the extremists should be dealt with firmly. It was also agreed at the meeting that Parliament should discuss situation in Punjab at a suitable early time. He said the government has no hesitation on ths score.

The opposition parties leaders welcomed the recent developments in which some extremists were either apprehended or killed.

Punjab Assembly Adopts Resolution

BK311629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The Punjab Legislative Assembly today unanimously adopted a resolution expressing concern over the activities of the antisocial, antinational, and foreign-inspired forces trying to destabilize Punjab through violence. The all-party resolution calls upon the people of the state to unite against these forces and defeat their designs. The people should work to uphold the unity and integrity of the country and to maintain harmony in the state, the resolution said.

Earlier, the Congress-I members staged a walkout when the house was discussing an official bill. The leader of the opposition, Mrs Gurbinder Kaur Barr, expressed the apprehension that the government is trying to push through the bill a day in advance of

the schedule. Even the statement of the speaker that the chief minister had agreed to discuss law and order in the state in camera later today failed to pacify the agitated Congress-I members. They boycotted the remaining proceedings of the house.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has sought the cooperation of all Punjabis in creating an atmosphere of peace, harmony, and goodwill in the state as well as in effectively curbing the violent activites. Replying to over an hour long discussion on the law and order situation in the state legislative assembly this afternoon, he described terrorism as a cancer which has to be rooted out at all costs. He said those indulging in such activities have no religion except cruelty.

He accused a neighboring country of harboring and training some misguided youths who are indulging in terrorist activities in Punjab. Mr Barnala said that the delay in the implementation of the Punjab accord has also to some extent contributed to the present situation in the state.

Later, the house was adjourned sine die.

Gandhi on Antiterrorist Action

BK310915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that the Punjab government will continue to act against the terrorists with a firm hand to bring about a change in the situation soon. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was talking to newsmen after investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] today. Asked about the training of terrorists in Pakistan, he said the issue has already been taken up with the Pakistan Government on a number of occasions.

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramkrishna Hegde, has said that he suspects a conspiracy involving foreign hand behind the violence in Punjab. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that those indulging in violence cannot be termed as misguided people because there is a method behind all the violent incidents. The issue should not be treated merely as a law and order problem.

Ban on Foreigners Extended

BK010637 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The whole of Punjab will continue to remain a restricted area for foreign passport holders till 2 July. The earlier notification, issued for a period of 3 months, is expiring tomorrow.

According to a notification issued by the Home Ministry in New Delhi, no foreign passport holder can enter Punjab for any purpose without obtaining a special permission from the Government of India, Indian missions abroad, or the home secretary to the Punjab government.

New Punjab Governor Named

BK011605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Apri 86

[Text] The foremr chief minister of West Bengal, Mr Siddharta Shankar Ray, has been appointed governor of Punjab. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique issued this evening says the present governor of Punjab, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, is to be the new Maharashtra governor. Dr Sharma goes in place of Mr Kona Prabhakar Rao, whose resignation has been accepted. According to another communique, retired Vice Admiral Rustam Khusro Shahpur G. Gandhi is to be the governor of Himachal Pradesh. Vice Adm Gandhi fills the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Hokishe Sema.

AIR [Al India Radio] Chandigarh correspondent understands that the new governor of Punjab will be sworn in tomorrow afternoon.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in Amritsar

BK010639 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab, two suspected terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in the (Pakti) area of Amritsar district. According to an official spokesman, the terrorists — on a scooter — had earlier deprived the occupants of a car of their valuables at gunpoint. A mobile police party, on receipt of the information, rushed to the spot and in the exchange fire that followed the two culprits were killed.

Delhi Strike Protests Killings

BK011617 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Most shops, wholesale trading centers and industrial establishments remained closed in Delhi today in response to a bundh [strike] call by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] to protest against the recent killings of innocent people in Punjab. Several other parties and organizations including the Akali Dal-Longowal have supported the bundh call.

Schools, banks and government offices were open. According to a DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] spokesman, tires of seven vehicles were deflated and windows of two buses were broken by stoning in west Delhi. The police which had made elaborate arrangements detained about 150 persons for causing obstruction in the maintenance of law and order.

The organizers of the bundh had exempted essential services like public transport, electricity, water supply and hospitals.

The president of the Delhi unit of the BJP, Mr Madan Lal Khurana, claimed this evening that the bunhd was total. He said it showed the anguish of the people over the killings in Punjab. Mr Khurana claimed that more than 200 workers of his party were arrested for violating prohibitory orders.

PRC Reportedly Involved in Pakistan's Nuclear Program

BK311355 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The Defense Ministry's annual report for 1985-86 has said that Pakistan's determined quest for making a nuclear bomb and China's modernization program with military overtones have obvious bearing on India's security. The report says that China is widely believed to be involved in Pakistan's nuclear program. The continued flow of arms into Pakistan from the United States is another matter of serious concern to India. The ministry underlined the need for taking appropriate countermeasures in view of the fact that external forces could interact with internal forces of dissent in the political and socioeconomic spheres adding to our security problems.

The report says there has been an increase in the number of contacts with China and bilateral relateions betweekn India and China have expanded in areas of trade and technical and cultural exchanges.

Zia Reiterates Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

BK311649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The direrton general emeritus of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Dr Sigvard Eklund, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening and exchanged views with him on Pakistan's peaceful atomic program. The president reiterated Pakistan's intention to acquire atomic energy for peaceful purposes. He expressed the hope that the states with nuclear technology will understand Pakistan's immediate need for atomic energy and cooperate in this regard. The president agreed with Dr Eklund that the Agricultural and (?Biological) Atomic Institute in Peshawar has played a prominent role in achieving a better harvest this year in Pakistan. He also appreciated the progress in the medical field, with thousands of patients benefitting from new treatment methods. The IAEA director general emeritus said Pakistan (?badly) needs atomic energy for its development and is fully justified in its efforts to acquire such modern technology. Dr Eklund said he recognizes that Pakistan is reaping many benefits from its investment in atomic energy, such as in the fields of agriculture and medicine.

Speaking at a news conference before his departure, he said IAEA will help in the development of atomic energy in Pakistan especially for generating electricity.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Ziaul Haq 31 Mar

BK311540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Mr 86

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Mujahidin Operations Against USSR-Karmal Forces

Attack Position in Herat

BK290624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Afghan mujahidin attacked a position held by Soviet-Karmal forces near Herat recently. In this operation, a large number of Soviet-Karmal forces were killed or wounded. According to the reports, in the course of this operation, besides capturing 13 members of the ruling party, mujahidin seized a large quantity of arms.

Attack Military Convoy in Farah

BK291032 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have ambushed a military convoy in the western Province of Farah. A number of Soviet-Karmal troops were killed and a large quantity of ammunition and several vehicles were destroyed during the operation.

Attack Qandahar Airport

BK010611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] According to a report from Afghanistan, mujahidin recently attacked the Qandahar airport with rockets and damaged four MIG jets and two helicopters. They also inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet-Karmal troops. In retaliation, Soviet aircraft bombed an area near Qandahar for 2 hours, during which three civilians were killed and five others injured.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister on Terrorists Offensive Plans

BK301232 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Terrorists are reported to be planning a major offensive in the north. The minister of national security says that the intelligence reports have identified the Armed Forces establishments at Velvettiturai, Thondamanna, Point Pedro, or Karainagar as their possible targets. A statement by the minister says that the security forces in the north will not tolerate the provocative actions, suffering casualties in silence. Terrorists had been warned that the security forces will not only return the fire if attacked but also pursue the terrorists in full strength. Civilians have been advised to move out of the areas where terrorists operate as they might get caught in the crossfire.

The minister's statement refers to terrorist attacks on the Point Pedro and Thondamannar camps in the past week during which one soldier was killed and two others wounded. The terrorists used mortars and automatic weapons. These attacks were seen by the ministry as provocative action by terrorists against the security forces who had been confined to their camps following the suspension of offensive operations by the government on the 15th of March.

The government also announced at that time that the halt to aerial attacks on terrorist hideout (?was) a gesture of goodwill to improve the situation in the north and encourage the terrorists to negotiate. The statement adds that the aim of the terrorist was to destroy human life and cause damage to property while the terrorists were [words indistinct] in a luxury life in South India.

No Soviet, Indian Support of Terrorists

USSR Envoy Denies Support

BK301122 Colombo SUN in English 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The Soviet Union is not supporting the Tamil terrorist groups either directly or indirectly, its Ambassador in Sri Lanka, K.N. Kulmatov, declared yesterday.

Re-iterating his government's position at a news conference Mr. Kulmatov said the Soviet Union only provided arms to its allies and friendly governments. It could not take responsibility for some of these weapons ending up in the hands of unauthorised groups, he said.

The Soviet envoy's reaction came when reporters asked how terrorist groups were possessing caches of Soviet-built weapons.

At present, all major terrorist groups are said to be using the Soviet built AK-47 assault rifle as their standard weapon.

During operations in the past months, security forces have captured a large number of these rifles.

Minister Confident of No Indian Aid

BK291125 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali hac expressed confidence that India will in no way give assistance to set up a separatist Eelam government in Sri Lanka since such a move could be an ominous sign for the unity of a vast country like India itself.

The minister said that those involved in the local separatist movement should understand how the Tamils in south India and other races in different parts of our vast neighbor are living in harmony in a united India. The minister was speaking at a religious ceremony yesterday at the (Boragoda Sri Sukhada Rama) vihara [temple] at (Nivitigala).

Mr Athulathmudali said that no efforts will be successful in setting up an Eelam government within Sri Lanka and that the Sinhala people will not lose courage in the face of landmine explosion. They will not retreat either when they encounter terrorism.

The minister noted that the Tamils are safer among the Sihalese than in Jaffna.

Mr Athulathmudali explained that India and some other countries failed to bring out a resolution at a UN Human Rights Commission meeting against Sri Lanka because of the effectiveness of our foreign policy. Whatever was said and done, the minister observed that the Tamil solution to the ethnic problem was a political one and the terrorists should come forward even at this stage for a negotiated settlement. At the same time, he added, that the Sinhalese should also be united in encountering this problem.

Further Reportage on Separatist Violence

Five Soldiers Killed

BK280724 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 28 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists killed five soldiers and wounded three in a landmine attack Friday in the Trincomalee district in northeastern Sri Lanka, official sources said.

The landmine was planted in Kinniya village near the port of Trincomalee and blew up the troops' vehicle, a National Security Ministry spokesman said.

Two soldiers were wounded Thursday when Tamil militants opened fire at an army camp at Point Pedro on the northern tip of the Jaffna peninsula, the National Security Ministry said. There were no other casualties.

Later Thursday, Tamil militants abducted six Sinhalese farmers from a farm in the northern province as they were returning home by tractor, security sources said.

A seventh farmer managed to escape the attackers and inform the people at the farm, the sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali had visited the same farm earlier this week and urged the settlers to be vigilant against separatist attacks, the sources said.

A section of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority are waging a frequently violent campaign for greater autonomy in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

125 'Marxist Terrorists' Captured

BK301157 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] One hundred and twenty-five Marxist terrorists were captured by the security forces at Karaitivu in Batticaloa last Friday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the forces also seized guns at (?farm) owned by the terrorists at Karaitivu. Three Russian-made grenades and heavy rifles used for training purposes, three wire ropes, [word indistinct] tapes, a pedal cycle, terrorist literature, two bags of paddy, and a large quantity of cooking utensils were also recovered during the search operation.

Navy Patrol Kills 11 Tamils

BK311058 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] A naval patrol yesterday intercepted a boat in the Palk Strait, killing 11 terrorists and destroying an arms cache they were bringing into the Jaffna peninsula. The incident occurred in the waters of Madagal, the scene of another incident there 24 hours before. At dawn on Saturday [29 March] a navy patrolcraft had spotted a boat carrying six persons heading toward Tamil Nadu. When they closed in on them they discovered they were armed terrorists. The patrol opened fire, destroying the boat and its occupants. Yesterday's incident had taken place shortly before noon, when the terrorist boat, loaded with a cache of arms, rifles, ammunition, grenades, and RPG, was heading toward the shore.

Tamil Terrorist Leader Killed

BK311119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] The security forces have found that 31 of the 175 terrorist suspects who were taken into custody at Karaitivu on Friday last week have links with the terrorist groups — EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] and the Tamil Eelam Army. According to LANKA PUWATH, the others were taken into custody and will be released shortly.

An important member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] known as Raymond has been killed by the security forces when they raided a terrorist hideout in Kilinochchi yesterday. Ten others belonging to LTTE, TELO, PLOTE and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] were captured. Reports from LANKA PUWATH say that the terrorists had opened fire when the security forces approached the terrorist base compelling the forces to return fire.

Velayati Condemns U.S. Role in Nicaragua

LD311904 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to his Nicaraguan counterpart Miguel d'Escoto condemning "aggressive provocations" of the United States against that Latin American country.

Velayati said in his message that U.S. imperialism strives to make the revolution of the Nicaraguan nation face defeat through exploiting all possible means.

"The U.S. helps counterrevolutionaries, dispatches military advisors and provokes that country's neighbours threatening military interference", the message said.

Cabinet Reviews Reconstruction Jihad, Foreign Policy

LD301105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The Cabinet met today and, having reviewed the latest internal and external developments, discussed Islamic Republic's foreign policy concerning the neighboring countries. After emphasizing the need for good-neighborly relations with the neighboring countries it was decided to continue the discussion in later meetings.

The cabinet also earmarked 300,000 million rials towards the operations of the Reconstruction Jihad.

Muslim Brotherhood 'Strongly Condemns' Iraqi CW Use

LD301400 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — The International Organization of Muslim Brotherhood has strongly condemned Iraq's use of chemical weapons, according to the public relations office of the Foreign Ministry here Sunday.

A statement published by the International Organization of Muslim Brotherhood called on all world Muslims to strongly denounce the deployment of chemical weapons which is "banned by all religions and international regulations".

"It is painful for us to see a non-Muslim person as Saddam Husayn of Iraq forcing Muslims to participate in an unwanted war and to aim their arms at their Muslim brothers," the statement said.

"The flaming fire of hell would be the place for such people who either kill their Muslim brothers or are killed themselves" it added.

SAIRI Spokesman Condemns Arab League Stance

LD312235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] A spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], condemned the Arab League's recent stance on the Iraqi imposed war upon Iran and referred to it as the stance of inveterate enemies of the Muslim Arabic nation. In an interview with the SAIRI news unit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi announced that by ignoring the trampled rights of the oppressed Arab nations, particularly the Muslim nation of Iraq, this league supports the hirelings and unpopular regimes. In view of the overall position and policies of this league, we did not expect to see such a resolution issued.

The SAIRI spokesman thanked all those Arab countries which rejected this resolution or abstained on the vote. He declared that any step taken by world countries in favor of Saddam's disintegrating regime would be interpreted as hostility against the nation and Islamic revolution of Iraq.

Iraqi 'Revolutionaries' Kill Karbala' Official

LD302130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] In the course of some operations Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries killed the deputy head of Karbala' Province's security organization. According to news sources of the Iraqi mujahidin, Major Ibrahim Muhammad Shukr the deputy head of the security organization of Karbala' Province, was annihilated after a series of reconnaissance operations. This individual played a prominent role in preventing mourning ceremonies during last year's Muharram in the city of Karbala', and by torturing the struggling Muslims he sought to strengthen the shaky foundations of Saddam's disintegrating regime.

IRGC To Set Up Regional Staff Headquarter

LD291124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the chief of the Central Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, spoke at a news conference. He declared: In order to meet the needs of the fronts in various fields staff headquarters will soon be set up in every provincial center, comprising Friday imams, the imam's representative to every province, the governors general, and the commanders of the provincial districts. In Tehran a staff headquarters, with the participation of the prime minister and the corps commanders, will undertake the task of supervising the provincial war staff headquarters and their tasks. In this news conference he declared: Following the recent speech by his holiness the imam the number of volunteer forces for the fronts is so numerous that the barracks of the corps are incapable of dealing with all the applicants, so we are extending a hand toward the people and Friday imams for succor so that they may help us.

He also said: The organs and institutions of the Islamic revolution, such as the Islamic Revolution Committees, which are willing to dispatch their forces in a structured manner the fronts, can either contact the corps staff command or telephone numbers 398151, 398257, 314125.

The chief of the central staff command of the Islamic Revolution Guards corps said: As to those who are incapable of bearing arms

but are volunteering for the various services sections behind the fronts, such as the medical, cultural, and services sections, their relevant programs will be announced later.

Navy Commander Notes Use of 'Special War Tactic'

LD311036 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — Commander of Iran's naval forces Captain Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Monday that in the course of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive in Al-Faw peninsula, Iran employed a special war tactic and made drastic changes in its operational military units to suit the geographical conditions of the operational theater.

Speaking to a gathering of Navy personnel here on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, April 2, the Navy commander added that Navy played an outstanding role in the said offensive.

Reiterating that Khawr 'Abdallah region had been completely mined, Captain Malekzadegan said that so far a number of Iraq battleships and boats have been destroyed.

Referrring to the activities of the Navy during the past year, the Navy commander said that the navy successfully safeguarded warm waters of Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf and inspected ships carrying armaments for the Iraqi regime.

WIH Head Discusses 'Val-Fajr-8,' UN Resolution

LD291025 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) stressed that the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, would be continued until the achievement of final victory.

Kharrazi who had a stopover in London enroute to Tehran from the recent Havana conference of news agencies of non-aligned countries, told the BBC that the offensive was a "practical warning" to the Iraqi regime and its supporters in the region. Describing the recent resolution of the U.N. Security Council as a "positive" step, the WIH head said that condemnation of the Iraqi regime by international bodies would make world public opinion aware of Iraqi war crimes.

Of course, he added, the Islamic Republic of Iran insisting on its conditions to put an end to the war, was not interested in bloodshed and instead was willing to punish the Iraqi regime through diplomatic channels.

He reiterated Iran's repeated announcement that as soon as the war ended, the Islamic combatants of Iran would return to their country and would leave Iraq for the Iraqis to decide on their future political system.

Kharrazi said that a revolution by the Iraqis against the Baghdad regime was not unexpected since the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn had lost his reputation among regional states.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had nothing to do with the regional countries and added that when the war ended they could live a peaceful life with Iran and embark on a mutual cooperation.

He said that liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw by the Iranian combatants was of great military, political and economic importance, adding that it has halted navigation of Iraqi naval forces from Khawr 'Abdallah to the Persian Gulf.

However, Kharrazi said, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believed that the aggressor should be punished and be tried by a court provided that the court from the very beginning accepts that Iraqi regime is the aggressor.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Fighters Bomb Supply Centers

LD311312 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya', March 31, Iranian fighters flew behind Iraqi front lines in the southern war front twice Monday and bombed their supply centers, according to the headquarters for military operations here.

The first run at 10:00 (06:30 GMT) was on positions west and north of the salt lake in Iraq's Al-Faw peninsula where heavy battles have been reported by the two warring countries.

Muslim combatants of Iran captured the lower sector of the peninsula when they crossed the 500-meter wide Arvand River and stormed Iraqi positions on February 9.

The Khatam ol-Anbiya' military headquarters said planes returned safely to their base, it said. [as received]

Iraq has been reporting a three pronged counterattack in Al-Faw for the past six weeks but it has failed to report any advance.

Meanwhile seven other Iraqi troops surrendered to Muslim combatants in Al-Faw bringing the number of the "lost-hope" Iraqi soldiers to 50 in the past 48 hours.

Military analysts had earlier said Iraqi troop morale was running low as their army reached its casualty limit in battle of Al-Faw.

In United Arab Emirates Iraqi workers said wounded soldiers have been moved to hospitals in neighbouring Jordan in an effort to hide casualty figures.

According to one Iraqi engineer who had visited a relative in an Amman hospital wounded men were also sent to other neighbouring countries but he did not indicate where.

He quoted soldiers as saying that the volume of the Iranian artillery fire in the Al-Faw offensive code-named Val-Fajr-8 (Dawn-8) was unprecedented in the war.

War started on 22 September 1980 when Saddam Husayn ordered his troops into Iranian soil to capture the southern

Khuzestan Province in the hope of extending Iraq's coast line with the open sea.

Forces Destroy Bunkers, Kill 300

LD311718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the mighty warriors of the corps of Islam conducted infiltration operations last night and today in the "Val-Fajr-9" operational sector. They attacked the heart of Zionist enemy positions and succeeded in destroying a large number of their bunkers and killing more than 300 troops of the Iraqi disintegrating Ba'thist Armed Forces. The warriors of Islam also captured a number of the enemy troops and transferred them behind the lines.

Also during these victorious operations, the brave combatants of Islam succeeded in destroying over 80 percent of a battalion serving under the Iraqi 8th Division. They also destroyed over 80 percent of another battalion from the 34th Division of the defeated Armed Forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime. The combatants of Islam encircled and completely crushed a Saddamist commando company. Following these infiltrating operations, the God-seeking warriors of the front of monotheism, after fully destroying more than two tanks, seven vehicles, three machineguns, and dozens of other heavyweight weapons, safely returned to their own positions.

Communique No 2426

LD311755 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 31 Mar 86

["Artillery Duels on All Fronts" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces in northwestern battlefronts was more intense in Panjwin and Sardasht region, according to a military communique released by Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Monday.

In its Communique Number 2426, the Joint Staff Command said Iranian Muslim combatants killed or wounded a group of Iraqi troops in the front and demolished several of their bunkers as well as a bulldozer.

The communique said exchange of artillery and mortar fire also continued in western operational region. It added that exchange was more intense in Sumar and Naft-e Shah regions.

In western fronts, four Iraqi bunkers, three observation posts, three 105 mm artillery guns as well as a munitions depot were demolished by the Muslim combatants, the communique said. More than 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in this fronts, it added.

In southern fronts, exchange of fire was more intense in Hoseyniyeh and Al-Faw regions which caused casualties and damages to the enemy, the communique concluded.

Meanwhile, Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters said Iranian Muslim forces infiltrated Iraqi positions in northern fronts on Sunday and Monday killing more than 300 enemy soldiers and demolishing several positions.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were taken captive and transferred by the Muslim forces behind the fronts, the headquarters said. Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ. furthermore said that more than 80 per cent of a battalion of Iraq's Eighth Division as well as entire battalion of the 34 Division were destroyed.

An enemy commando company was entirely crushed in the region by Muslim combatants.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Positions

LD010727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters announced that in the early hours of this morning several Iranian Air Force fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and weaponry near the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr road and the strategic bridge in the area. Having inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the disintegrating Iraqi Army, the fighters safely returned to their bases.

IRGC Sinks Iraqi Frigate

LD011103 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., April 1, IRNA — The naval unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) attacked an advanced Iraqi frigate in Khawr 'Abdallah Monday night [31 Mar], inflicting heavy casualties on the Iraqi forces.

The Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint headquarters of the Army and the IRGC announcing this Tuesday, added that the coastal artillery fire of the IRGC combatants destroyed and sunk the frigate, killing all crew on board.

Meanwhile, the announcement said, a number of Iraqi forces including several officers and NCO's surrendered to the Islamic forces of Iran in the Val-Fajr-8 operational region Monday night and Tuesday.

Air Force Bombs Al-Faw-Basa Axis

LD011125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the fast-flying pilots of the Iranian Air Force, having bombed the Zionist enemy's positions, equipment, and weapons near the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr highway as well as a strategic bridge in the region early this morning, at 0800 also

bombed the Al-Faw-Basra axis. After inflicting heavy damage on the Zionist enemy, they returned safely to their bases.

Positions in Bakhtaran, Ilam Bombed

LD011504 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Prov., April 1, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran heavily shelled Iraqi positions, fortifications and their supply axes in Bakhtaran and Ilam battlefronts, west of Iran, over the past 24 hours.

The Muslim forces while halting the enemy's movement and engineering activities, demolished four bunkers and three observation posts of the Iraqi forces and killed or wounded 14 of them.

Commentaries Examine Bush's Upcoming Gulf Visit

ABRAR Political Commentary

LD311651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] On the eve of the visit by U.S. Vice President George Bush to Persian Gulf region, in its political commentary *ABRAR* carries the following:

Although there are still 3 days left before Vice President Bush begins his visit to the Persian Gulf region, his press conference, and the opinions of U.S. officials, as well as the motive behind the visit are being commented on and analyzed in a great many political circles.

The motive for Bush's visit, which is to include Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, and North Yemen, aims to study the Iraq-Iran war and the fall in oil prices. Nevertheless, considering the recent victories achieved by the Islamic Republic's forces in the southern operational theater, the liberation of the strategic Al-Faw port, and the inability of the Iraqi regime's forces to confront the Iranian forces, it appears that the war and its future will constitute the main topic of Bush's discussions with the officials of the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states.

U.S. strategy vis-a-vis the imposed war, despite the voluminous propaganda by U.S. media concerning that country's neutrality, is quite clear. U.S. policy with regard to this war is based on Iran's failure to achieve victory or on ending the war by means of an American-style peace, minus any justice. Consequently, on the eve of the visit by the vice president, U.S. administration officials — after more than 2,000 days of war and at a time when even according to a simple military assessment Iran's superiority and, subsequently, victory is inevitable — have announced that any further escalation of the war would threaten the interests of both the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf's southern littoral sector. This is taking place at a time when Islamic Iran has repeatedly announced that should the Persian Gulf southern littoral states refrain from any aggression, then not only would Iran oppose any escalation of the war in the region, but it would crush the perpetrator of tensions in the region and would restore peace and stability to the region.

Having said that, the outcome of the visit, which according to claims made by White House officials is an indication of U.S. goodwill, depends on the far-sightedness and objectivity — or lack of thereof — by the officials of the region's countries; because Washington's reassurance to southern littoral states of its support, apart from the propaganda mileage Washington is trying to make from it, is nothing but the provocation of these states to enter the war desert or to increase its support for the Saddam regime. After all, the expression of support by the United States for these countries is being raised at a time when these states are on the threshold of making a not insignificant decision; the most rational outcome of such a decision could be to separate their fate from that of Saddam's regime.

Political games are not always in line with reality, rather they are shaped parallel with them. Consequently, the victories of the Islamic Republic combatants on the battlefronts are a motive which has led Bush, as the representative of the U.S. Administration and in order to prevent the inevitable outcome of this imposed war, to visit the region so that perhaps by opening another front against the Islamic revolution, they can change the outcome of this war in favor of the United States. Nevertheless, as the most powerful government in the Persian Gulf region, the Islamic revolution will restore stability in the Persian Gulf in line with the wishes of the region's peoples and despite the desires of the superpowers, without any supervision by or diktat of the United States or any other foreign power's fleets and interference.

Tehran Radio Commentary

LD311313 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] According to agency reports, the enemy's morale is weakening; as a result, his supporters are embarking on political attempts to conceal this fact. While Saddam Husayn's Arab supporters are attempting to protect his regime through their verbal and financial assistance, the United States too is trying to safeguard its own illicit interests by consolidating Saddam and his supporters. In other words, by raising the imaginary invasion of Islamic combatants and the question of the stability of the Persian Gulf states, the United States is attempting to find a suitable ground for its own extensive presence in the Persian Gulf in order to influence the course of events in the region to the detriment of the region's peoples.

Consequently, the White House announced that Reagan's vice president, George Bush, is to leave for the region on Thursday to visit several states of the Persian Gulf. He is to visit Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and North Yemen. He has said that a visit to Kuwait might provoke Iran, therefore he is not going to visit that country. The most important topic of discussions between Bush and the leaders of the states he is visiting will be the current status of the imposed war. According to a senior White House official, the visit to the region will reassure friends of the United States in the area that the United States is behind them.

As has been declared on a great number of occasions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made the utmost effort to confine the war to its present theater. As for the future, it will do its best to prevent the war from spreading to other areas. However, there is no doubt that to achieve this it is necessary for other Persian Gulf states to cooperate as well. The best guarantee is for these states to adopt a policy of neutrality and to stop their material and psychological assistance to Saddam Husayn.

Meanwhile, it should be pointed out that the continuation of consistent and comprehensive support for Saddam's regime as well as reliance on U.S. political and military support in tackling the region's problems will serve no other purpose than an increase in interference by the White House in regional issues and, consequently, the emergence of further internal problems for these states.

Ayatollah Shari'atmadari Suffering From Cancer

GF301614 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The followers of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari are very angry at the insulting treatment which has been accorded to the ayatollah by the Islamic Republic regime.

KEYHAN newspaper, printed in Tehran, in its Thursday night edition has apparently quoted families of martyrs complaining about the fact that Ayatollah Shari'atmadari has been hospitalized in Tehran's Mehrdad hospital.

According to *KEYHAN*: Now that the country's hospitals are filled to the brim with war wounded, why has Mr Shari'atmadari, whom the paper says has committed treason against the Islamic revolution and who is suffering from advanced cancer of the kidney, been hospitalized in Mehrdad hospital?

According to *KEYHAN*, which published the views of the Islamic Republic, Mr Shari'atmadari is occupying a bed which should be given to war wounded.

Analysts believe that the article in *KEYHAN* is, on the one hand, an admission of the mind-boggling numbers of war wounded and, on the other hand, shows the inhuman face of Khomeyni's regime which is objecting to the hospitalization of an old man.

According to reports received, the followers of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari are very angry about the behavior of the regime.